A TO Z INDIA

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Happy Diwali 2023
12th November (Sunday) in India
The Festival of Lights

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Indian Culture ● Indian Art ● Indian Lifestyle ● Indian Religion

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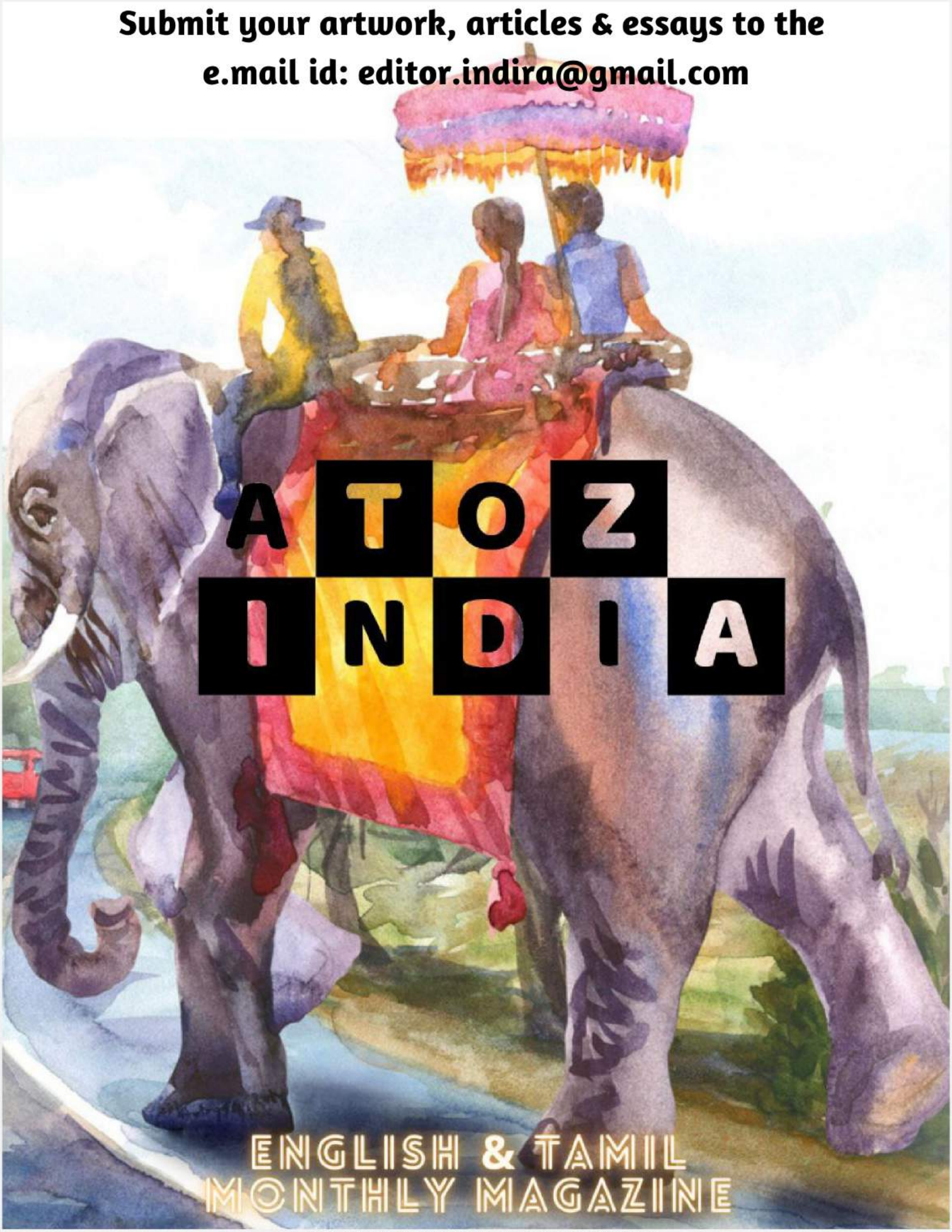

FROM THE EDITOR

A TO Z INDIA magazine covers the Indian through his art, culture, lifestyle, religion, etc. This magazine gives an insight into the life of Indians from an angle uncovered by others. Turn to find out what it is about and to immerse yourself into an entirely different culture.

Publication Team:
EDITOR: Indira Srivatsa
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Dwarak, Srivatsa
EDITORIAL CONSULTANTS: Santha, Bhavani, Srinivasan
REPORTING: Raghavan
PHOTOGRAPHY: Adithyan
GRAPHICS ENGINEER: Chandra

Editorial Office:
E002, Premier Grihalakshmi Apartments,
Elango Nagar South,
Virugambakkam,
Chennai - 600092,
Tamil Nadu, India.

Communication Details:
MOBILE: +91-7550160116
e.mail id: editor.indira@gmail.com

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK: KARWA CHAUTH DAY IS ALSO KNOWN AS KARAK CHATURTHI

Karwa Chauth day is also known as Karak Chaturthi (करक चतुर्थी). Karwa or Karak refers to the earthen pot through which water offering, known as Argha (अर्घ), is made to the moon. Karwa is very significant during Puja and it is also given as Dan to the Brahmin or any eligible woman.

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DUSSEHRA 2023: THE FESTIVAL OF VICTORY OF VIRTUES OVER EVIL

The festival of Dussehra is celebrated every year on the tenth day of Shukla Paksha of Ashwin month. It symbolizes the victory over evil.

A TO Z INDIA: Editorial Address

KARWA CHAUTH 2023: 1ST NOVEMBER 2023 WEDNESDAY

From the Editor's Desk: Karwa Chauth day is also known as Karak Chaturthi

Karwa Chauth fasting is done during Krishna Paksha Chaturthi in the Hindu month of Kartik and according to Amanta calendar followed in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Southern India it is Ashwin month which is current during Karwa Chauth. However, it is just the name of the month which differs and in all states Karwa Chauth is observed on the same day. Karwa Chauth coincides with Sankashti Chaturthi a fasting day observed for Lord Ganesha. The fasting of Karwa Chauth and its rituals are observed by married women for the long life of their husband. Married women worship Lord Shiva and His family including Lord Ganesha and break the fast only after sighting and making the offerings to the moon. The fasting of Karwa Chauth is strict and observed without taking any food or even a drop of water after sunrise till the sighting of the moon in the night. Karwa Chauth day is also known as Karak Chaturthi. Karwa or Karak refers to the earthen pot through which water offering, known as Argha, is made to the moon. Karwa is very significant during Puja and it is also given as Dan to the Brahmin or any eligible woman. After four days of Karwa Chauth, Ahoi Ashtami Vrat is observed for the wellbeing of sons.

Diwali 2023:

Date, Time, Significance Of Celebration

Indira Srivatsa

Diwali, also called the Festival of Lights, is a significant celebration for various reasons. People from the Hindu religion celebrate it all around the world to show the victory of light over darkness, good over bad. Diwali brings families together, they give each other presents, and enjoy happy celebrations.In this blog we discuss about Diwali 2023 date, time and significance for different religions in India.

It's also the beginning of a new financial year, which means it inspires hopes for prosperity and wealth. Additionally, it pays respect to different gods from Hindu beliefs, making it a very spiritual and culturally enriching event. Diwali's lively celebrations and deep meanings make it a special time for millions of people everywhere.

Diwali 2023 Date and Timings:

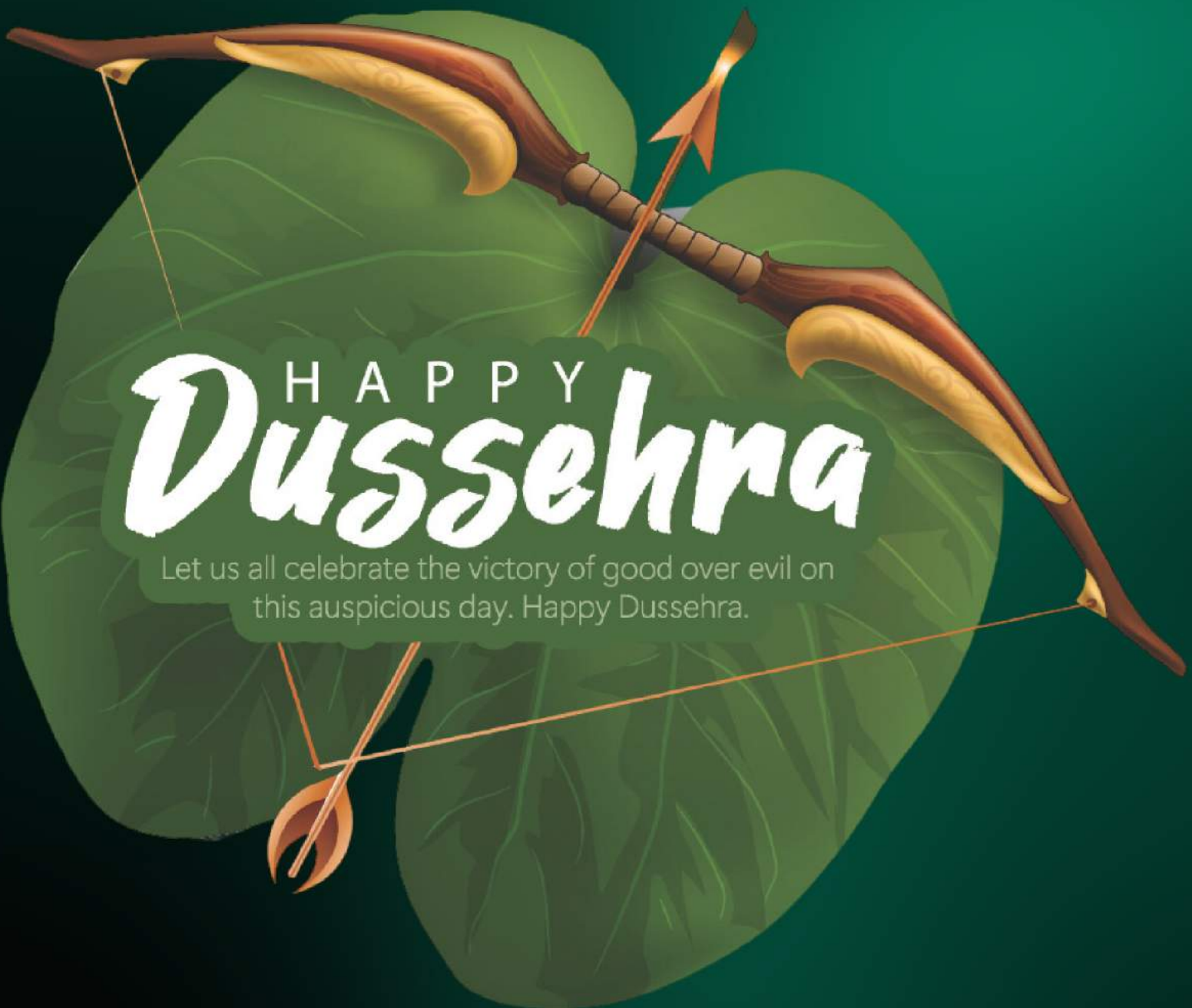
In November 2023, Diwali celebrations last for several days. It starts with Dhanteras on November 10th, when people buy gold and metals. The next day, Choti Diwali, is about decorating homes and making colorful designs called rangoli. Diwali Laxmi Puja on November 12th is a day for praying to Lord Goverdhan and Goddess Laxmi for wealth.

Dussehra:

The Festival of Victory of Virtues over Evil

Lalit Garg

By Lalit Garg
Writer, Journalist, Columnist
E-253, Saraswati Kunj Apartment
25 IP Extensions, Patparganj, Delhi-92
email: lalitgarg11@gmail.com
Phone: 22727486, 9811051133



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Writer, Journalist, Columnist
E-253, Saraswati Kunj Apartment
25 IP Extensions, Patparganj, Delhi-92
email: lalitgarg11@gmail.com
Phone: 22727486, 9811051133

The festival of Dussehra is celebrated every year on the tenth day of Shukla Paksha of Ashwin month. This festival symbolizes the victory over evil. Over the period of time, this festival also comes to instil a new energy into the cultural consciousness and the sense of patriotism in the country. Even today, the need to enliven the culture of this inspirational and motivational festival has become all the more necessary in order to fight the forces of darkness. The question is who should protect the culture? Who should lead the rise of ideals? Who should get his first name written in the foundation of life values? The process of fighting evil is very difficult. This practice of awakening brilliance and power is very difficult. It is very complex to give a high peak to self-existence and self-identity. After all, how to fight the evils hidden in our house, when Ravana is taking birth in the courtyard of the house, be it in the form of corruption, be it in the form of political criminalization, be it in the form of those spreading communal hatred, be it in the form of anti-national elements. Be it in the form of terrorists who break the law, or in the form of those who make education, medicine and justice a business. Celebrating this festival every year, where strength is prayed for, attention is drawn towards various issues of national importance. This provides new inspiration, new freshness, new strength, new dreams and new directions.

The festival of Dussehra, which follows Navratri, is a very special festival for Hindus; it comes 20 days before the festival of Diwali. Dussehra is celebrated to mark the victory of Lord Shri Ram over the demon king Ravana. People stage the war between Shri Ram and Ravana in the form of a drama for ten days prior to the arrival of Dussehra. This dramatic life depiction is called Ram-Leela in North India-- people organize Ram-Leela by wearing masks and through various dance forms, which they enjoy, making it a medium of Hindu culture, following the verses of Ramayana. They also make giant size effigies of the three great demons namely-- Ravana, Meghnad and Kumbhakarna in which big fire-crackers are filled; and when the effigies are made to burn, they turn out to be the brilliant spectacles to watch on.

Lord Shri Ram is, thus, the symbol of truth, while his opponent Demon King Ravana is the evil incarnate. This great religious festival and custom is celebrated by the Hindus with the worship of Goddess Durga. The traditions and procedures of celebrating this festival are different across the country. Lord Ram was a devotee of the war goddess Maa Durga, who worshiped Maa Durga for nine days preceding the war, and killed Ravana on the tenth day of war. After this, Shri Ram rescued His Divine consort Sita through fighting a big war in company with His brother Lakshman, devotee Hanuman, and an army of monkeys. Therefore, Vijayadashami is a very important day of the victory of Good over the Evil, of the Truth over the Falsehood and the Light over the Darkness. On this day, along with burning of Ravana, there is also a tradition of worshiping weapons, vehicles and worshiping Maa Durga, Lord Shri Ram and Ganpati Devata. Therefore, Vijayadashami has also been called as Vijaya Tithi. It is believed that this day is very auspicious to please Goddess Lakshmi.

Dussehra:

The Festival of Victory of Virtues over Evil

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Writer, Journalist, Columnist
E-253, Saraswati Kunj Apartment
25 IP Extensions, Patparganj, Delhi-92
email: lalitgarg11@gmail.com
Phone: 22727486, 9811051133

Dussehra has a cultural aspect also. It is also a festival to unite the cultural unity and integrity of the country. This year's Vijayadashami festival has special significance, because with the positive revolutionary energy of this festival, not only a strong message has to be given to the negative and anti-national forces active in the nation, but also a challenge and caution against the misdeeds of neighbouring countries like Pakistan, China etc. After celebrating the Amrit Mahotsav year of Independence, the nation has to be strengthened for the Centenary Year that is 2047. The new consciousness that has come in the country with the strengthening of fundamental beliefs, nationalism is a living evidence of a powerful leadership. The efforts being made in search of renewable sources of energy for nationalism, self-identity, patriotic sentiments and the Hindu culture are unprecedented. The contemporary environment in which the nation is being led in accordance with the popular aspirations is extraordinary.

Dussehra is also a festival of Shakti sadhana, karma, new creation and worship. During the last eight decades, there have been continuous political moves to weaken the Hindu religion and culture. Actually Hindu is not a religion, it is an idea, and a culture. Being a Hindu nation does not mean to be a theocratic state, but the all-embracing spirit of Hindu culture. Hindu culture is the inherent sound of generosity, because it is the only culture in the entire world which embraces pluralism i.e. all religions, ideas and cultures. This country also gave the title of Rishi to a materialistic philosopher- thinker like Charvak who had said that 'Rinaam Kritva Ghritam Peevet' i.e. whatever is there is today, who has seen tomorrow, hence today should be lived to the fullest and even if one has to take loans. If it has to be done, it should be done. Along with this, our other sages also gave us this advice that 'Satyam Buryat Na Buryat Satyam Apriyam' i.e. speak the truth, but do not speak the bitter truth. The greatness and specialty of Hindu culture has been that it advocates the beloved truth, but also asks for its prohibition when it becomes harsh.

The Hindu culture is that of non-violence, but it also talks about self-defence by taking up arms if necessary. The word 'Hindu' itself gives the sense of 'Swarashtra' which is a part of the larger form of Hindu culture. Vijayadashami festival is a powerful medium to strengthen this ideology. Through this festival, everyone's voice and objective is to destroy evil and encourage goodness. After Navratri, the last i.e. tenth day of Dussehra is Vijayadashami, which means that you have conquered all the three gunas - Tamas, Rajas or Satva. You passed through these three qualities, saw all three, participated in all three, but you were not attached or tied to any of these three in any way, you overcame all three of them. This is Vijayadashami – the day of your victory.

Indian culture is a worshiper of bravery and valour. The festival of Dussehra has been organized to display bravery in the blood of individuals and society. The festival of Dussehra provides good inspiration to give up ten types of sins – lust, anger, greed, attachment, jealousy, ego, laziness, violence and theft. One who is full of hatred, full of anger, full of malice, full of jealousy, full of greed, is increasing fear. All these lead to fear and powerlessness. While celebrating Dussehra festival of force and bravery, the biggest need is to burn these vices within us.

Dussehra:

The Festival of Victory of Virtues over Evil

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Writer, Journalist, Columnist
E-253, Saraswati Kunj Apartment
25 IP Extensions, Patparganj, Delhi-92
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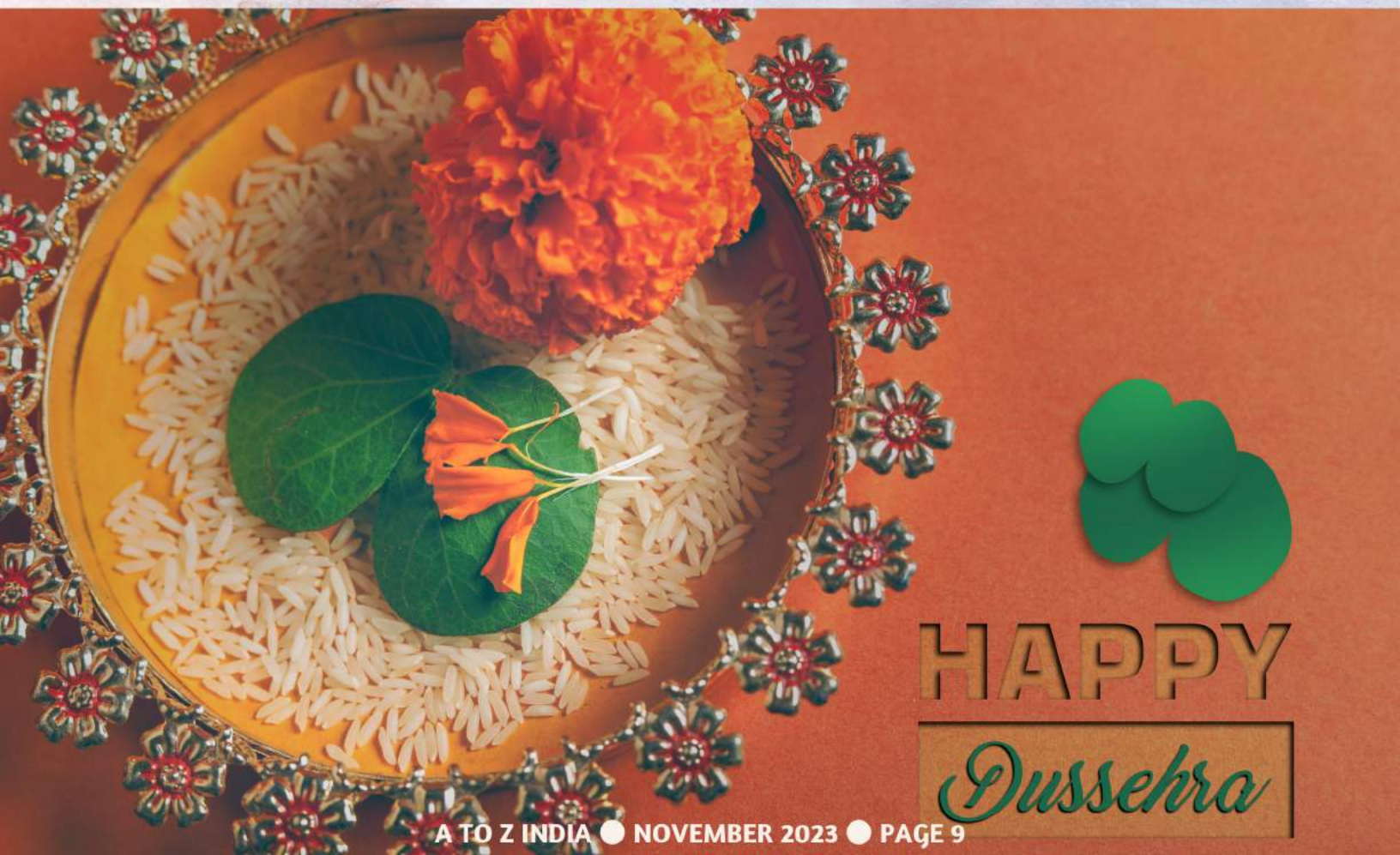
Phone: 22727486, 9811051133

India never supported war or violence, but when somebody challenged us and created war-like situations, the skill of Indian politics is to attack and defeat the enemy, instead of waiting for his attack. Since the time of Lord Ram, this day is the symbolic day of victory. Lord Ram had left for the war against Ravana on this day. Maratha Ratna Shivaji also protected Hindu religion by leaving for war against Aurangzeb on this day. There are many examples in Indian history when Hindu kings used to march in victory on this day. The celebration of Dussehra symbolizes protection of religion, display of power and coordination of power. Apart from this, Dussehra symbolizes the victory of positive forces over negative forces.



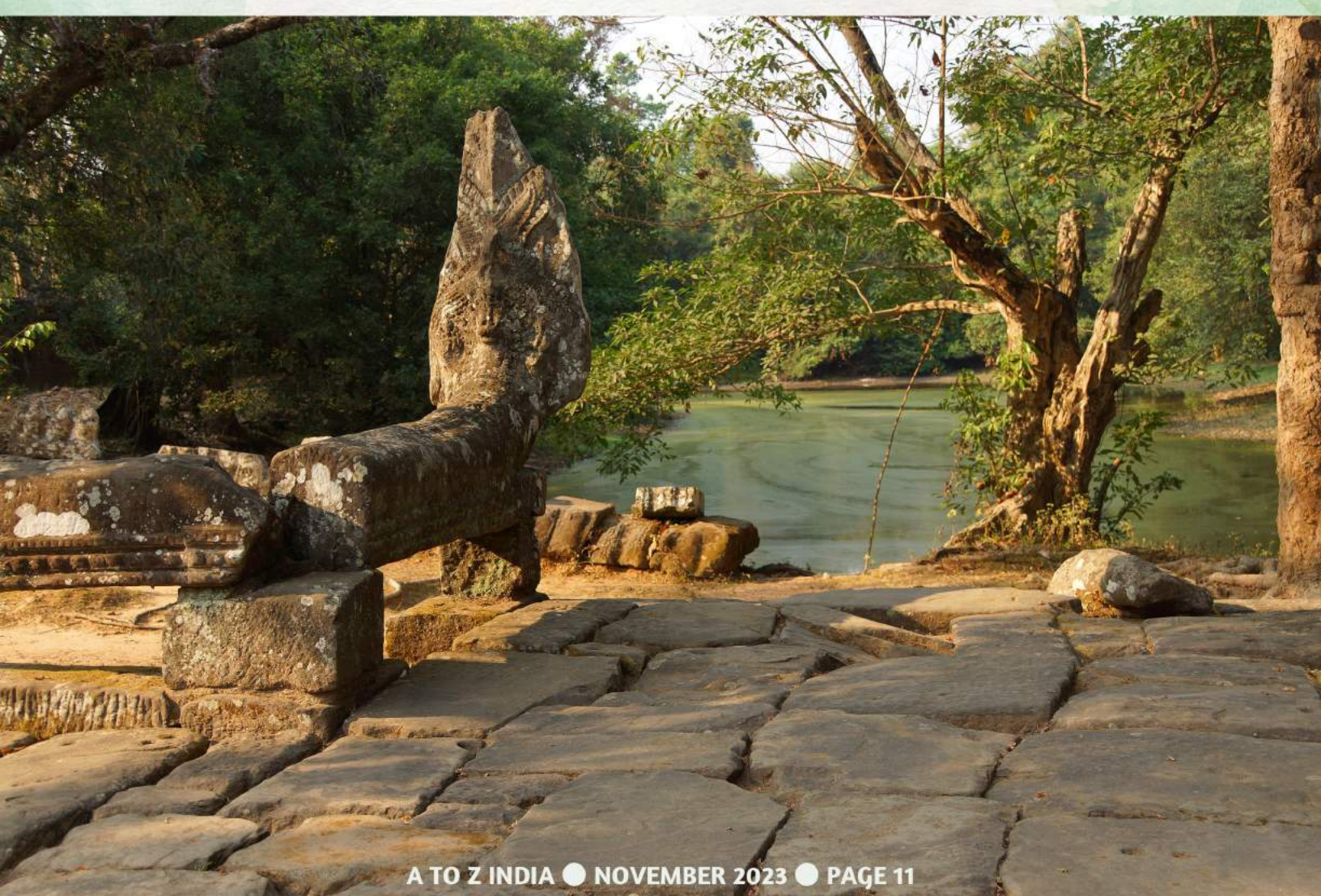
Naga Carvings...!:

Srimath Anantheshwar Temple

Indira Srivatsa

Naga Carvings...!
Srimath Anantheshwar Temple, Manjeshwar

Srimath Anantheshwar Temple at Manjeshwar village, just outside the Karnataka-Kerala border, is a temple dedicated to Shesha or Ananta, the serpent God. This is one of the earliest temples belonging to the Gowda Saraswat Brahmins, and the history dates back to almost the 8th century.



Ernakulam,Kerala, India 🇮🇳:

Sree Poornathrayeesha Temple

Adithyan

Kerala's style of architecture is a unique with striking contrast to Dravidian architecture compared to other parts of South India. They are outstanding for their simplicity, purity, and age-old traditions rooted in Vedic ethos, which continue to be maintained and no changes have been made in the heritage structures such as addition of any shrines or modification of existing ones

Another important feature is the 'dhvaja sthambah' in which they portrayed the Ashtamurtis, eight directional deities, at the base, which is not found in other parts of the country, Another unique contribution of Kerala temple architecture is the installation of tall 'deepa sthambah' (lamp stand) rising to more than 10 feet with the figure of a turtle as the seat. which symbolically represent the primordial support of the integrating beauty, symmetry, aesthetics and religious heritage. Most of the temples have lots of greenery ,river / big ponds giving a calm, serene surrounding. Temples open by 5 am and close by 11am. Unmindful of their income, the Purohits are very dedicated. Sree Poornathrayeesa Temple is one of the eminent temples of Kerala. The principal deity is Lord Vishnu in the form of Santhanagopala Moorthy. The inner courtyard of the Sree Poornathrayeesa Temple. The Hindu temple is considered among the greatest temples in the State of Kerala. The temple is famous for its yearly Utsavams or festivals in Ernakulam, Kerala, India

Architecture of Sree Poornathrayeesa Temple:

A fire in 1920 severely damaged the sreekovil which had a structure of wood. Sri Eachara Warrier, distinguished temple architect, redesigned the temple using concrete. The concrete has covering of copper plates, wooden panels and granite tiles. The Sreekovil has the shape of a chariot. Entrance to sreekovil (sanctum sanctorum) has a covering of gold. The outer walls of the sreekovil have a cover of large brass sheets inscribed with figures of gods and goddesses. Copper sheets protect the roof. Locals call the temple Vellayambalam, meaning white temple in Malayalam. The gopuram at the entrance is a two-storey structure. The first floor has a small hall with eight carved wooden pillars. On entering the temple through the eastern gopurmam, you will see the large covered area called anapanthal to the left.

History:

Long time ago, a Brahmin had the misfortune to lose his ten children one after the other at child birth. He sought the help of Arjuna, third of the five Pandava brothers. He in turn approached Lord Vishnu who is the supreme being that creates, protects and transforms the universe. He blessed Arjuna's prayer for rebirth of the children and also gave him the idol of Sree Poornathrayeesa. Arjuna then took the ten reborn children and the sacred idol in a chariot to the Brahmin. The temple was constructed in memory of this event.

Ernakulam,Kerala, India 🇮🇳:

Sree Poornathrayeesha Temple

Adithyan

Deities:
The main deity, Santhanagopala Moorthy, is the protector of the town of Tripunithura. You can see him in a sitting pose under the five hoods of the divine serpent, Ananthan or Aadhishesha. Many families visit Sree Poornathrayeesa Temple to seek the blessings for birth of a child or heir. Lord Ganapathy has a shrine to the south of the sreekovil. There are no other installations of deities in the temple.

Festivals at Poornathrayeesa Temple:
Vrishchika Ulsavam is the main festival in the temple. This takes place in the Malayalam month of Vrishchikam (November/December) and lasts for eight days.The temple processions feature fifteen elephants. This Vrishchika Ulsavam is the biggest temple festival in the world.

Temple Offerings:
The temple contains a kedavilakku (eternal flame) which Arjuna first lit during consecration of the idol. Arjuna gathered gingelly seeds and churned out oil to light the lamp. In memory of this event, devotees offer Olpenna (gingelly oil) to the Lord. This is the most important Vazhipadu (offering) in this temple.

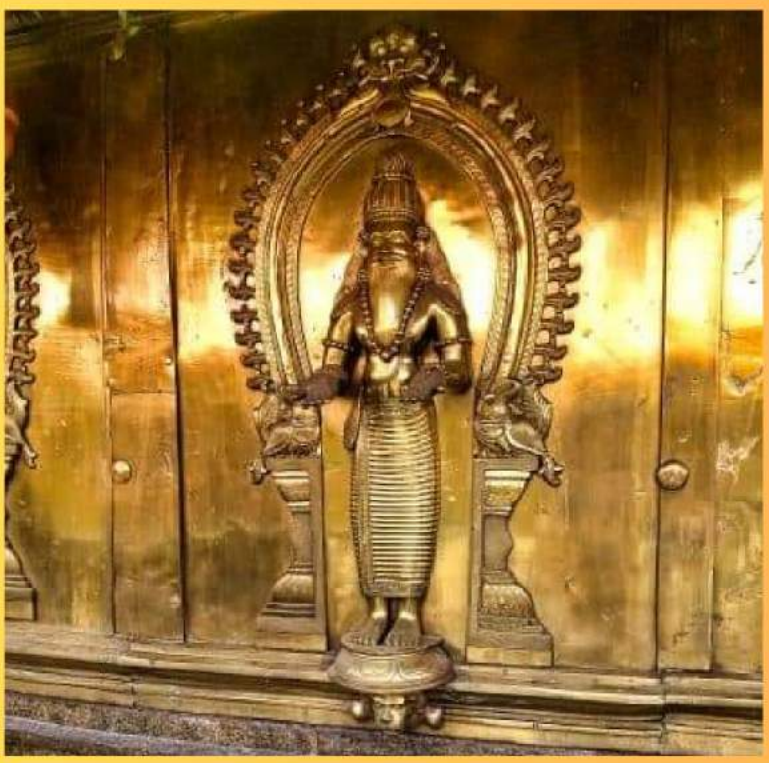
Getting There:
Kochi International Airport at Nedumbassery is the nearest airport which is at a distance of 33 km (55 min). Tripunithura railway station is 2.8 km from the temple.

Ernakulam,Kerala, India 🇮🇳:

Sree Poornathrayeesha Temple

Adithyan

Visitors will travel on NH 66 for 205 km (5 hr 10 min) to reach Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram. Guruvayur Sree Krishna Temple is to the north and much closer at 86 km (2 hr 33 min). Bus services at short interval link Ernakulam and Tripunithura. The buses may be crowded at peak hours.



Shiva and Nandi - Travel to the future:

ASI's recent excavation in Bandhavgarh

Adithyan

Vital findings surface at ASI's recent excavation in Bandhavgarh, recoveries include largest Varaha sculpture between 2nd & 5th century CE. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Jabalpur circle, in a recent excavation has recovered more than 100 remains in the core area of the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserves in Madhya Pradesh's Umaria. The unique recoveries include largest Varaha sculpture dating between 2nd century CE to 15th century CE, making the excavation a landmark in India's Archaeological history. It is to be noted that the archaeological site of Bandhavgarh is an old site, first excavated in 1938. However, the recent findings have been the most significant ones till date.

According to the reports of the ASI, Jabalpur Circle, a team of 10 officers and two forest officials explored the remains located in the core area of the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserves when 26 caves were recovered for the first time. The excavation took place between May 20 and Jun 27, this year. As a preliminary observation most of the 26 caves recovered were noted to be Buddhist in their architectural nature. ASI, Jabalpur circle, Superintending Archaeologist, Dr Shivakant Bajpai, who led the exploration said, "This is an important exploration and documentation to know about the rich culture of Baghelkhand." He further added, "A large Varaha sculpture measuring 6.4 x 5.03 x 2.77 metre of 9th - 13th century CE is found. It appears to be the world's largest sculpture." The 26 caves that have been recovered during the excavation have been dated back to 2nd Century CE to 5th century CE. Preliminary research suggests that the caves particularly belonged to the Mahayana sect of Buddhism as the remains include chaitya shaped doors and cells containing stone beds. About the recoveries at the caves, the Superintending Archaeologist said, "The team found a Votive Stupa and a Buddhist pillar fragment containing miniature stupa carving. The votive stupas held the ashes of the monastic dead to be eternally in the presence of the Buddha Shakyamuni. These are roughly dated back to 2nd -3rd century CE." Besides, another set of 26 ancient temples and remains and 2 Saiva math of Kalachuri Rajput period, dating back to 9th century CE to 11th Century CE, have also been recovered. 46 new sculptures and 19 water bodies were also found at the site. The site also had various quarry sites and brick kiln. In the inscriptions, Kaushami, Mathura, Pavata (Parvata), Vejabharada and Sapatanaairikaa were found mentioned. These were important places during the times of the Mahajanapadas. Important Kings mentioned in the inscriptions are Maharaja Bhimsena, Maharaja Pothasiri and Maharaja Bhattadeva.

Shiva and Nandi - Travel to the future:

ASI's recent excavation in Bandhavgarh

✍️ Adithyan

Khatuapada, Uttara, Odisha 🇮🇳:

Bhairangeswar Temple

🫳 Midhun

Bharingeswara Temple built on late 12th century by Somvansi dynasty and later on sculptures added by Eastern Ganga Dynasty dedicated to lord Shiva is replica of early evolving stages of Kalingan architecture where Jagamohana is present in a distorted structure.

Bhairangeswar Temple, Khatuapada, Uttara, Odisha 🇮🇳:
Bhringeswara Temple built on late 12th century by Somvansi dynasty and later on sculptures added by Eastern Ganga Dynasty dedicated to lord Shiva is replica of early evolving stages of Kalingan architecture where Jagamohana is present in a distorted structure. There is another sideby temple dedicated to lord Ganesha in which a large idol of lord Ganesha is present is believed to be largest after lord Ganesha idol at Lingaraja Temple complex. Dhauli has been always an important landmark for Buddhist, Jainism and ancient Kalingan dynasties for worship which tells the glorious past.

About location: 1.5kms away from Dhauli Shanti stupa at the foothills of Dhauli hill and 15kms away from Railway station.

Incredible India: Images of India through Paintwork

Chandra

Incredible India: Images of India through Paintwork

✍️ Chandra

Picture-square & a mesmerising experience:

The 3 river island temple of Kahalgaon

Midhun

This place is a picture-square & gives a mesmerising experience. ❤️ The 3 river island temple of Kahalgaon, Bhagalpur, Bihar 💙. The 3 river island temple of Kahalgaon, Bhagalpur, Bihar. bank. Ganga at Kahalgaon flows Uttarwahini (towards north) after Varanasi.

This place is a picture-square & gives a mesmerising experience ❤️. The 3 river island temple of Kahalgaon, Bhagalpur, Bihar 💙. The 3 river island temple of Kahalgaon, Bhagalpur, Bihar. When Ganga flows down fom the tall Himalayas, there is no such place other than Rishikesh & Haridwar which gives it a rocky river bank.Ganga at #kahalgaon flows uttarwahini(towards north) after Varanasi.

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Kansa Vadh, 22nd November 2023, Wednesday:

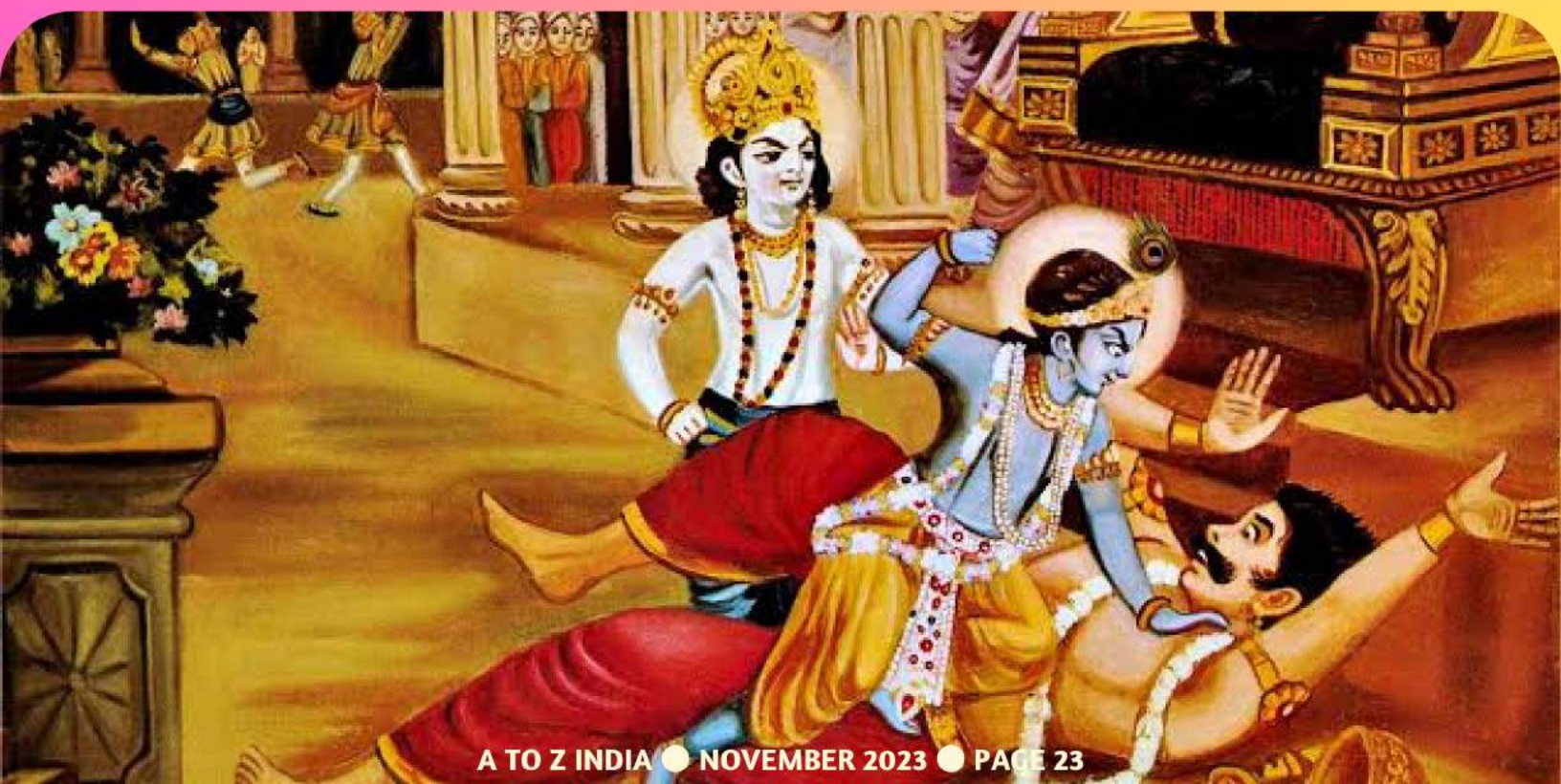
Kansa Vadh 2023 🎨🙏

✍️ Adithyan

Kansa Vadh:

Kans or Kamsa was the son of Ugrasena and maternal uncle of Lord Krishna and Balram. According to mythology, Lord Krishna killed Kansa on Kartik Shukla Dashami, which falls on 22nd of November this year. On Kansa Vadha day, Kansa was killed by Lord Krishna and the king Ugrasena was reinstated as King of Mathura. Kansa Vadh is local festival of Braj region. It is celebrated mainly in city of Mathura. This festival is mainly celebrated by the Chaturvedi community. The word Chaturvedi means Knower of 4 Vedas. The Chaturvedi surname is also known as Chaubey. It is interesting to note that except Chaturvedi community no other caste in Mathura celebrates this festival.

Chaturvedi diaspora from UAE, etc. including Dubai make sure that they visit India to mark their presence for the festival. Not only Indian diaspora in other countries but also members of the Chaturvedi Samaj relocated to other Indian cities including Mumbai make a visit to their home town Mathura. Hence, the event of Kanda Vadh unites Chaturvedi community like no other events in Hindu Calendar. This festival is observed during Kartik month on Shukla Dashami in Hindu lunar calendar and usually falls after 10 days of Deepavali Lakshmi Puja. Hence for Chaturvedi community Diwali rituals continue till Dashami Tithi and beyond that. Next day of Kansa Vadh coincides with Dev Uthan Ekadashi day. On this day, Teen Van Parikrama is performed in Braj region. It covers 3 towns in Brij region namely Mathura, Vrindavan and Garun Govind. It is believed that Lord Krishna performed this Parikrama to absolve the sins of killing Kansa. To keep the tradition alive, the folks of Mathura perform Teen Van Parikrama on the next day of Kansa Vadh.



MAHAKUTA GROUP OF TEMPLES

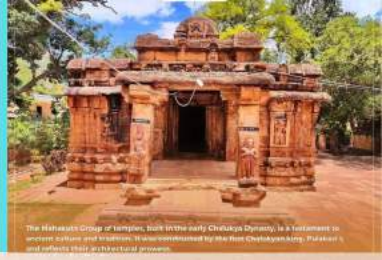
The Mahakuta Group of Temples, built between the 6th and 8th centuries AD, derives its name from the abundance of Lord Shiva temples within the complex. It is a sacred site entirely devoted to Lord Shiva.

The Mahakuta temple complex boasts over two dozen Shiva Temples encircling a picturesque spring-fed tank called Vishnu Pushkarini. It's also known as Papavinasha Tirth, signifying a tank that purifies sins. The locals even use it as a swimming pool.

Bagalkot District, Karnataka:

Mahakoota Temples

Midhun



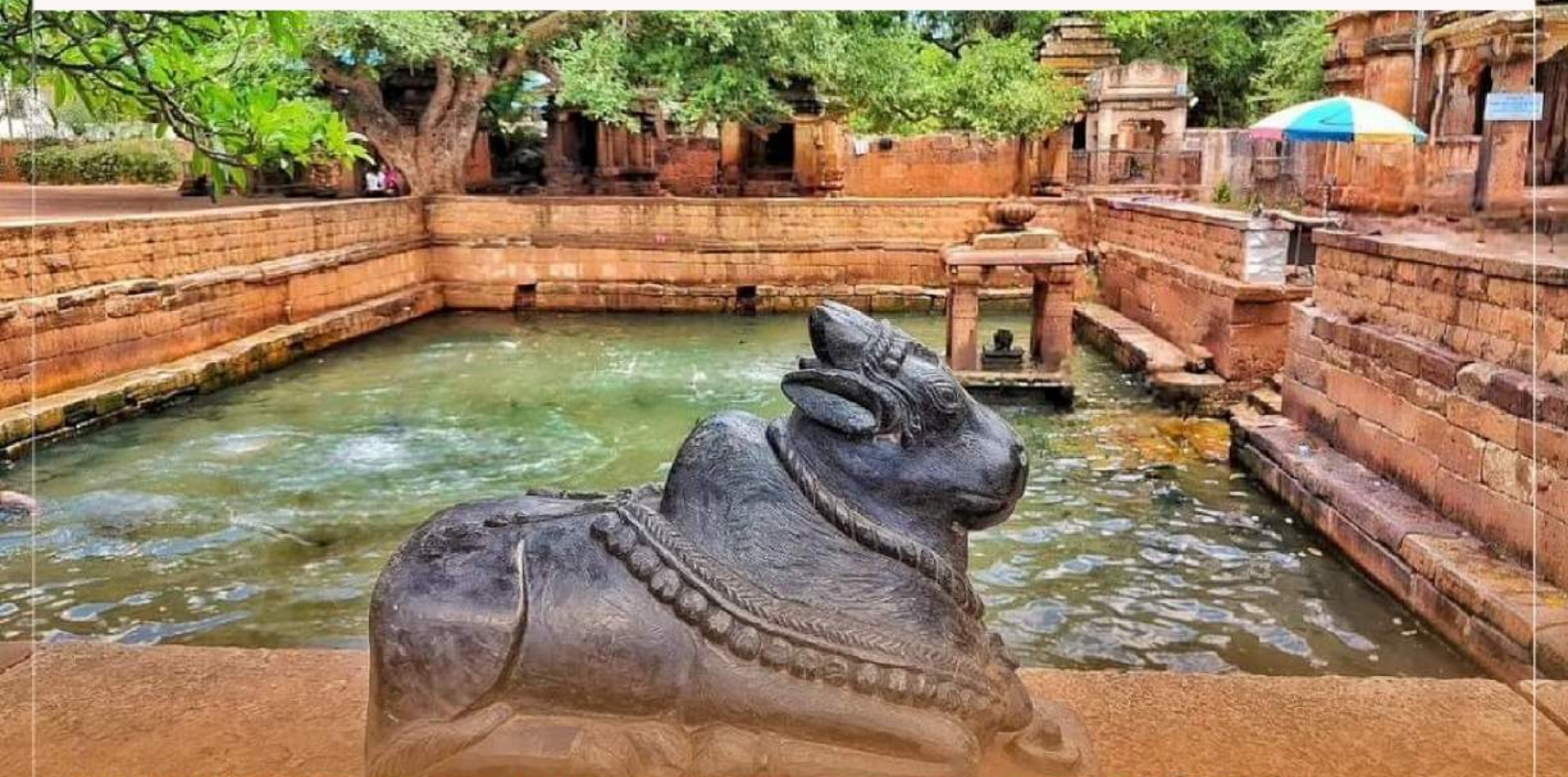
Kannadiga's pride is appreciated worldwide for the technical, architecture, and technology used in construction of ancient temples built centuries ago. A group of Mahakoota temples built by the early kings of Badami's Chalukya dynasty were built in around 19th and 19th century, these are located in the Mahakoota village of Bagalkot district.

📍Mahakoota, Bagalkot (District):

Kannadiga's pride is appreciated worldwide for the technical, architecture, and technology used in construction of ancient temples built centuries ago. A group of Mahakoota temples built by the early kings of Badami's Chalukya dynasty were built in around 19th and 19th century, these are located in the Mahakoota village of Bagalkot district. The architectural style of Mahakoota temples, similar to the architecture of Aihole temples. Documents on the reconstruction of the Chalukya Dynasty history in the Pillar legislation and Mukhmantapa legislation.

📍Mahakuta Group of Temples, Mahakuta, Bagalkot, Karnataka:

The Mahakuta group of temples is located in Mahakuta, a village in the Bagalkot district of Karnataka state, India. It is an important place of worship for Hindus and the location of a well-known Shaiva monastery. The temples are dated to the 6th or 7th century CE and were constructed by the early kings of the Chalukya dynasty of Badami.



The Mahakuta temple complex boasts over two dozen Shiva Temples encircling a picturesque spring-fed tank called Vishnu Pushkarini. It's also known as Papavinasha Tirth, signifying a tank that purifies sins. The locals even use it as a swimming pool.

Navaratri Day 5:

Maa Skandamata

Adithyan

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Navaratri Day 5:

Maa Skandamata

Adithyan

Skandamata is the Goddess worshipped on the fifth day of the nine days of Navratri Puja. Mother Goddess is known as Skanda Mata because she is the mother of Skanda or Kartik or Muruga – the commander of the army of Devas. Goddess Skanda Mata rides on a lion. Sometimes she is depicted as riding on a peacock. She sits on her Vahana or vehicle in the lotus position – padmasana. Thus she is also known as Padmasan Devi. Skanda Mata is four armed. She holds lotuses in her two hands. With one hand she holds the young six headed Skanda or Kartikeya . One of her hand is in Varada Mudra posture.

Story of Skandamata:
Three demons – Surapadma, Simhamukha and Tarakasura – armed with powerful boon that only a son born of Shiva would kill them embarked on a massive rampage and devastation. The demons were of the belief that Shiva who was in deep meditation will not return to the life of a householder. So they thought the one destined to fight them will never be born. On advice of Brahma, Kamdev deployed his arrows on flowers to wake up Shiva from his meditation and instill passion for the benefit of the world. Kamdev succeeded in his mission. The divine spark that emanated from Shiva as a result divided into six and Vayu (wind) and Agni (fire) carried them and deposited it in Ganga. The Holy River placed them in a cluster of weeds and here the sparks assumed the form of six babies. The six Devis (goddess) of Karthikai – the third constellation of the 27 birth stars – took care of the six babies. Goddess Parvati on realizing that the divine manifestation has taken place rushed to the spot and lifted the six babies up. Suddenly the six faces and twelve hands merged into One – Skanda was born.

Maa Skandamata:
The 5th day of Navratri is dedicated to Goddess Skandamata, the 5th manifestation of Goddess Durga. Her name comes from word, Skanda which is just another name for war god Kartikeya and Mata is the term for mother. Thus she is known as the mother of Lord Kartikeya or Skanda. Goddess Skandamata is portrayed as holding Lord Skanda in his infant form through her left hand and a lotus in her right hand. She has four arms, three eyes and a bright complexion. She is also called as Padamasani since she is often depicted as seated on a lotus flower. She is also worshiped in the form of Parvati, Maheshwari or Mata Gauri. The left arm of the goddess is in a pose to grant boons with grace to her devotees.

Story:
The legend of Skanda is found in the Skanda Purana. Shiva and Parvati's energy combined into its own devine form when the two meditated. Indra came to know about this and assigned Lord Agni(Fire) to steal the ball of energy and keep it safe from Demon Tarakasur. Agni snuck in the cave and took the energy by deceit and lies in his hands. After meditation, Parvati realized that Lord Agni took the divine energy and chased after him. Lord Agni vanished with the divine energy and ran to Goddess Ganga.

Navaratri Day 5:

Maa Skandamata

Adithyan

Meanwhile, Parvati came out of the cave and asked Gods why Lord Agni stole the divine energy. Gods answered her that they had to keep it safe from Demon Tarakasur. Parvati got angry and attained the form of Goddess Durga, cursed the Gods that their wives would never be able to enjoy happiness with their children and cursed Lord Agni that he would be an all-burner, unable to differentiate the differences between right and wrong, and that his food would have impurities, that he would always be surrounded by black smoke and that anyone who touched him in any one of the three worlds would reduce to ashes. Meanwhile, Shiva came out of the cave and placated her. Later, Shiva's son Kartikeya (or Murugan or Skanda) had taken birth from the six Kritikas(Mothers) and not Parvati. Nonetheless, the Goddess had accepted him as her own child, setting an example of being a great mother before the world. She took back Kartikeya, from Kritika Lok(Kritika world) to Kailash while riding Lion in her Durga form. As he grew, he learned about the boon given by Lord Brahma to Tarakasur that he could only be killed by Kartikeya. The Gods had given Kartikeya special powers and weapons, and Shiva and Parvati encouraged him to kill Tarakasur in the battlefield. Before Kartikeya left for the great battle, Parvati transformed herself as Goddess Durga again to bless him. With Parvati's (Goddess Durga's) blessings, he killed Tarakasur and his army. He was made the commander-in-chief by the Gods.

Significance:

It is believed that she awards devotees with salvation, power, prosperity and treasures. She can grant oceans of wisdom even to most illiterate person, if he happens to worship her. Skandamātā who possesses the brilliance of the sun fulfills all the desires of her devotees. He who is selflessly devoted to her, attains all the achievements and treasures of life. The worship of Skandamātā purifies the heart of a devotee. While worshiping her, the devotee should have absolute control over his senses and mind. He should free himself from worldly bondage and worship her with a single-pointed devotion. Her worship is twice blessed. When the devotee worships her, Lord Skand, her son in her lap, is automatically worshipped. Thus, the devotee happens to enjoy the grace of Skandmata along with the grace of Lord Skand. If a devotee worships her devoid of selfishness, the Mother blesses them with power and prosperity. The devotees who worship Skandamātā shine with divine splendour. Her worship is ultimately conducive to salvation. She is regularly known as "The Goddess of Fire". It is believed that the planet Budha is governed by Goddess Skandamata.

Navaratri Day 5:

Maa Skandamata

✍️ Adithyan

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ஆன்மீகம்:

மொட்டை போடுவதன் காரணம் தெரியுமா?

இந்திரா

மொட்டை போடுவதன் காரணம் தெரியுமா?
உலகத்தில் எங்கிருந்தாலும் ஹிந்துக்களிடையே தலைமுடியை முழுக்க மழிக்கும் பழக்கம் காணப்படுகிறது. இதனை மொட்டை போடுதல் (மொட்டையடித்தல்) என்பார்கள். ஒரு முறை மொட்டையடித்துக் கொண்டால், அடுத்து முடி இறக்க மூன்று மாதங்களாக வேண்டும். மூன்று மாதமாகாமல், மீண்டும் முடி எடுக்கக்கூடாது. இதனை ஹிந்துக்களிலேயே கிண்டலடிப்பவர்கள் உண்டு- 'உயிர் கொடுத்த சாமிக்கு மயிர் கொடுக்கிறாயா?' என்றும் , 'ஏன் முடிய கொடுக்கிற விரலக் கொடுக்கறேன்னு வேண்டிக்கலாமே!' என்றும் கேலி பேசுவார்கள்.

'முடின்னா வளர்ந்துடும்ன்னு வேண்டிகிட்டாயா?' என்று கிண்டலடிப்பார்கள். யார் என்ன சொன்னாலும் இன்றும் மொட்டை போட்டுக் கொள்பவர்களின் எண்ணிக்கை பல மடங்கு பெருகியே இருக்கிறது, இன்னும் பெருகும். மத பேதமின்றி, எல்லோருடைய கிண்டலுக்கும் கேலிக்கும் ஆளாகியிருக்கும். இந்த மொட்டை போடும் அல்லது போட்டுக் கொள்ளும் பழக்கம் எப்போது யாரால் துவங்கப்பட்டது, என்பதனை பார்ப்போம். மகாபாரதப் போரின் உச்சகட்ட போரின் முடிவு நாளான 18ம் நாள் இரவில், வரும் விதியின் கோரத்தை அறியாத பாண்டவர்கள் ஐவரின் குழந்தைகளும் உறக்கத்தில் ஆழ்ந்திருந்த வேளையில், அவர்களின் உறக்கத்தை மீளா உறக்கமாக மாற்ற எண்ணி, அறையின் உள்ளே புகுந்த குரு துரோணாச்சாரியாரின் மகனான அஸ்வத்தாமன், உறக்கத்திலிருந்த குழந்தைகளை

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ஆன்மீகம்:

மொட்டை போடுவதன் காரணம் தெரியுமா?

இந்திரா

பாண்டவர்கள் என்று எண்ணி வெட்டி சாய்த்தான். அலறக்கூட நேரமின்றி மடிந்தன அந்த குழந்தைகள். விடிந்ததும் அங்கு வந்த பாண்டவர்கள், நடந்த கொடுமையை எண்ணி மனம் கலங்கினார்கள். இந்த மாபாதக செயலை செய்தவனை சிரம் கொய்வேன், என்று சபதமிட்டான் அர்ஜுனன். அன்று மாலைக்குள் யாரென்று கண்டறியப்பட்டு, விலங்கிட்டு கொண்டு வந்து பாண்டவர்கள் முன் நிறுத்தப்பட்டான் அஸ்வத்தாமன். குருவின் மகனை கொல்லுதல் பாபம் என திரௌபதியும் , அண்ணன்களும் கூற, 'என் சபதம் முடிக்காமல் விடமாட்டேன்' என கர்ஜித்தான் அர்ஜுனன்.

அப்போது ஸ்ரீ கிருஷ்ணர் ஒரு உபாயம் சொல்கின்றார். 'அர்ஜுனா , உன் கோபமும் செயலும் நியாயமானதே! ஆனாலும் தர்மத்தின் பாதையில் செல்லும் நீ புரிந்து கொள், அவனை சிரம் கொய்யாதே, பதிலாக சிகையை மழித்துவிடு, அது அவன் மரணித்ததற்கு ஒப்பாகும்' என்றார். அதற்காக, அஸ்வத்தாமனின் முடி மழிக்கப்பட்டு துரத்தப்பட்டான். ஆக, சிகையை (முடியை) இழப்பது என்பது மரணத்திற்கு சமமானதாகும்.

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ஆன்மீகம்:
சித்தர்களின் தலைவர் அகத்தியர்

இந்திரா

உங்களுக்கு இந்த பிறவியிலேயே அகத்தியர் பரம்பரையில் உதித்த குருவின் வழிகாட்டுதல் கிடைக்க வேண்டுமா?
உங்கள் ஊரில் அல்லது உங்கள் மாவட்டத்தில் அகத்தீஸ்வரர் திருக்கோயில் என்று ஒரு கோயில் மட்டுமாவது இருக்கும்.இதுபோன்று தமிழ்நாடு முழுவதும் 1008 அகத்தீஸ்வரர் திருக்கோயில்கள் உள்ளன . இவற்றில் பெரும்பாலான அகத்தீஸ்வரர் கோயில்கள் காவிரி கரையோரம் அமைந்துள்ளன. அதில் நீங்கள் 108 அகத்திஸ்வரர் கோயில்களுக்கு செல்ல வேண்டும். ஒரு முறை மட்டும் செல்ல வேண்டும்.

அவ்வாறு ஒரு முறை மட்டும் சென்று வழிபட்டால் போதுமானது. எவர் ஒருவர் 108 அகத்தீஸ்வரர் கோயில்களுக்கு ஒரே ஒருமுறை சென்று வழிபடுகிறார்களோ அவர்களுக்கு இந்த பிறவியிலேயே அகத்தியர் பரம்பரையில் உதித்த குருவின் வழிகாட்டுதல் கிடைக்கும் என்று அகத்தியர் உபதேசம் செய்துள்ளார். சித்தர்களின் தலைவர் அகத்தியர் என்பது தமிழ் மக்களாகிய நம்மில் பலருக்கு தெரியாது !

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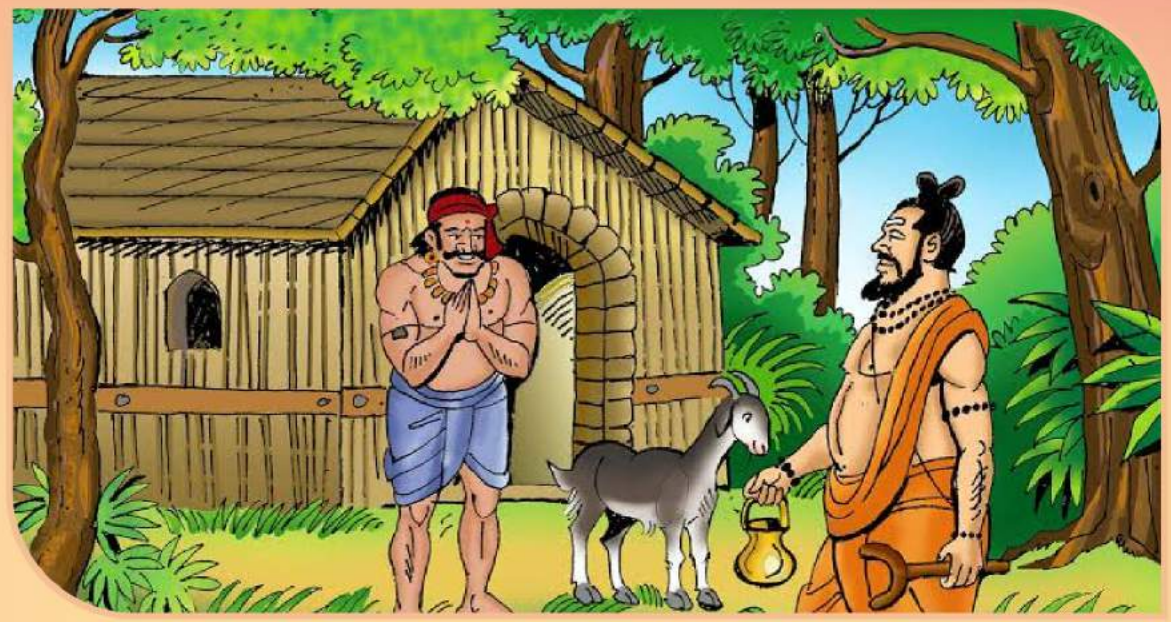

ஆன்மீகம்:

சித்தர்களின் தலைவர் அகத்தியர்

இந்திரா

காரணம் மற்ற மதங்களின் படையெடுப்பும் நாத்திகப் பிரச்சாரமும் தான் இதற்கு காரணம். இன்றும் கூட உலகம் முழுவதும் இருக்கும் 22,000 தீவுகளில் வாழும் பழங்குடி மக்கள் தமிழ் மொழி தான் பேசுகிறார்கள் என்பது நம்மில் பலருக்கு தெரியாது !

எப்படி வருமானம் பார்ப்பது?
வருமானம் பார்த்த பணத்தை எப்படி சேமிப்பது?
எப்படி கஞ்சத்தனமாக நடந்து கொள்வது?
எப்படி பணத்தை மேலும் மேலும் பெருக்குவது ?என்பது மட்டும் தான் இன்றைய பெரும்பாலான தமிழ் மக்களுக்கு தெரிகிறது .

"' 'ஓம் அகத்தீசாய நமஹ 'என்று நாம் ஒரு முறையாவது தினமும் நினைக்க வேண்டும். அப்படி நினைத்தால் தான் நமக்கு முக்தி கிடைக்கும் "என்று ஒரு வரத்தை சிவபெருமானிடம் இருந்து அகத்தியர் வாங்கி இருக்கிறார்!!! பூமியில் வாழ்ந்தவர் மக்களின் நலனுக்காக அடிக்கடி தவம் இருந்து சிவபெருமானுடன் இருந்து சிவபெருமானிடமிருந்து வரங்கள் வாங்குபவர் அகத்தியர். பூலோக மக்கள் நலனுக்காக பல ஆயிரக்கணக்கான வரங்களை சிவபெருமானிடம் இருந்து வாங்கிய முதல் சித்தர் அகத்தியர் ஆவார்.

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ஆன்மீகம்:
உங்களுக்கு தெரிந்திருக்கலாம்.....

இந்திரா

உங்களுக்கு தெரிந்திருக்கலாம் அல்லது தெரியாமலிருக்கலாம்.....

1. இரவு ஒன்பது மணி முதல் அதிகாலைமூன்று மணிவரை, நதிகளில் குளிக்கக்கூடாது.
2. மாலை6 முதல் காலை 6 வரை இரவுபொழுதாகும். இந்தநேரத்தில் குளிக்கக்கூடாது. கிரகண காலத்தில் இந்த கணக்கு இல்லை.
3. அமாவாசை அன்று நமது வீட்டில் தான் சாப்பிடவேண்டும். முடிந்தால் அன்று நாம் சாப்பாடு அடுத்தவருக்கு போடவேண்டும்.
4. காயத்ரி மந்திரத்தை பிரயாணத்தின்போது, சொல்லுதல்கூடாது சுத்தமானஇடத்தில்தான் ஜபிக்கவேண்டும்.
5. கற்பூர ஹாரத்தி - சூடம்காண்பித்தல் பற்றி .. சூடம் காண்பிக்கும்போது, கடவுளின் காலிற்கு நான்கு தடவை சுத்தி காண்பிக்கவேண்டும். தொப்புளுக்கு இரண்டு தடவை காண்பிக்கவேண்டும் முகத்துக்கு ஒரு தடவை கடைசியாக, முழு உருவத்துக்கும் மூன்று தடவை காண்பிக்க வேண்டும்.
6. தனது வீட்டில் கோலம் போடாமலும் விளக்கேற்றாமலும் ஆலயங்களுக்கு செல்லக்கூடாது.
7. எரியும் விளக்கில் எண்ணெய் அல்லது நெய்யை கையால் தொடுவதும் அதன் பிறகு அதைத் தன் தலையில் தடவிக் கொள்வதும் கூடாது.
8. சிவனுக்கு உகந்தது = வில்வம் ஆகும்
விஷ்ணுவிற்கு உகந்தது = துளசி ஆகும்
விநாயகருக்கு = அருகம்புல் ஆகும்

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ஆன்மீகம்:

உங்களுக்கு தெரிந்திருக்கலாம்.....

இந்திரா

பிரும்மாவிற்கு உகந்தது = அத்தி இல்லை ஆகும்
இவைகளை மாற்றி மற்றவருக்கு வைத்து வணங்க கூடாது.
9. கலசத்தின் அர்த்தங்கள்
கலசம்(சொம்பு) - சரீரம்
கலசத்தின் மேல் சுற்றியிருக்கும் நூல் - நாடி & நரம்பு
கலசத்தின் உள் இருக்கும் தீர்த்தம் (நீர்) - இரத்தம்
கலசத்தின் மேல் உள்ள தேங்காய் - தலை
கலசத்தின் மேல் உள்ள தேங்காயை சுற்றியிருக்கும் மாவிலை - சுவாசம்
கலசத்தின் அடியில் இருக்கும் அரிசி & இலை - மூலாதாரம்
கூர்ச்சம் - ப்ராணம்(மூச்சு)
உபசாரம் - பஞ்சபூதங்கள்.
10.தமிழ் மாதம் பன்னிரண்டிலும் செய்ய வேண்டிய தானம்...
சித்திரை - நீர்மோர், விசிறி, செருப்பு, குடை,
தயிர் சாதம், பலகாரம்
வைகாசி - பானகம், ஈயப்பாத்திரம், வெல்லம்
ஆனி - தேன்
ஆடி - வெண்ணெய்
ஆவணி - தயிர்
புரட்டாசி - சர்க்கரை
ஐப்பசி - உணவு, ஆடை
கார்த்திகை - பால், விளக்கு
மார்கழி - பொங்கல்
தை - தயிர்
மாசி - நெய்
பங்குனி - தேங்காய்.

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ஆன்மீகம்:
உங்களுக்கு தெரிந்திருக்கலாம்.....

இந்திரா

11. திருநீற்றை வில்வ பழ ஓடில் வைத்து பூசி கொள்ள சிவ கதி எளிமையாக கிடைக்கும்.
12. அடியார்கள் மற்றும் சிவ தீட்சை பெற்றவர்கள் தவிர மற்றவர் தண்ணீரில் திருநீற்றை குழைத்து புசிகொள்ள கூடாது.
13. பெண்கள் வேல் மற்றும் சிவலிங்கத்தை அபிஷேகம் செய்யகூடாது (ஆகம முறைக்கு உட்பட்டது)
14. கோவில்களில் சூடம் மற்றும் தீபத்தை கைகளில் ஏற்றி காண்பிக்க கூடாது.
15. நிவேதனம் செய்த தேங்காயை சமையலில் சேர்த்து அந்த உணவை மறுபடியும் சாமிக்கு நிவேதனம் செய்யக்கூடாது...

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The Sun God, Surya, the god of energy and of the life-force, is worshipped during the Chhath Puja to promote well-being, prosperity and progress.

HAPPY CHHATH PUJA 2023